

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A retractable rule assembly comprising

a housing assembly;

5 a reel rotatably mounted in said housing assembly;

an elongated blade formed of a ribbon of metal having one end connected to said reel constructed and arranged with respect to said housing assembly to extend from a position tangential to said reel outwardly through a spaced opening in said housing assembly;

10 a coil spring formed of a ribbon of metal having a construction and arrangement between said housing assembly and said reel to rotate said reel in said housing assembly in a direction to wind up the elongated blade when extending outwardly of said housing assembly opening in a normal concavo-convex cross-sectional configuration onto said reel in an abutting volute
15 coil formation in a flattened cross-sectional configuration; and

a blade holding assembly constructed and arranged to be manually actuated to hold the blade in any position of extension outwardly of said housing assembly opening and to release the blade from any position in which it is held;

20 said elongated blade having a width in said flattened configuration thereof having a dimension within the range of 1.10" - 1.5", and a height in the concavo-convex configuration thereof having a dimension within the range of 0.25"-0.40".